

Brewery W Ks

Milwaukee

INVESTIGATIVE FILE

Brewery Workers  
■ Milwaukee

X

JULY 27, 1953

(BREWERY)

MILWAUKEE--AN END TO THE 75-DAY-OLD MILWAUKEE BREWERY STRIKE WAS APPARENTLY JUST AROUND THE CORNER TODAY. SIX STRIKEBOUND BREWERS LAST NIGHT ACCEPTED A PROPOSAL BY THE CIO UNITED BREWERY WORKERS TO END THE BALKOUT. NEITHER SIDE WOULD REVEAL THE TERMS OF THE PROPOSAL. BUT A UNION SPOKESMAN HAILED THE AGREEMENT AS "SWEEPING VICTORY." THE STRIKING MEMBERSHIP, SOME 7,200 WORKERS, MUST RATIFY THE AGREEMENT. A MEETING OF THE UNION MEMBERSHIP MAY BE HELD TOMORROW, AND UNION LEADERS WERE PRESSING FOR QUICK RATIFICATION.

7/27--IC1020A

RED BREWERY, MILWAUKEE

THE AGREEMENT HAD FIRST BEEN ACCEPTED ON AN INDEPENDENT BASIS BY THE BLATZ BREWERY. THEN, LAST NIGHT, THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE MILWAUKEE BREWERS ASSOCIATION, ACCEPTED THE UNION PROPOSAL. THEY ARE SCHLITZ, MILLERS, SETTLEMAN, INDEPENDENT AND PARADISE. THE CIO WORKERS HAVE BEEN ON STRIKE SINCE MAY 14 IN AN EFFORT TO WIN A 35-HOUR WEEK AT NO LOSS IN PAY, A 25-CENT HOURLY WAGE INCREASE AND "PRINCIPLE" BENEFITS. IT WAS NOT IMMEDIATELY KNOWN HOW MANY OF THESE BARGAINS THEY ACTUALLY WON IN THE AGREEMENT LAST NIGHT. UNION ATTORNEY JAMES C. PARADISE MADE THE CLAIM THAT THE UNION HAS WON A "SWEEPING VICTORY." MILWAUKEE NORMALLY PRODUCES MORE THAN 15 PERCENT OF THE NATION'S BEER, AND SOME OF THE BREWRIES HERE HAVE LARGE BRANCHES IN OTHER AREAS. THE STRIKE FORCED TAVERNS TO IMPORT BEER FROM OTHER CITIES AND CREATED A SHORTAGE OF WELL-KNOWN PREMIER BEERS IN MANY MIDWESTERN CITIES.

7/27--IC1020A

Administrative File  
Brewery Workers -  
Milwaukee  
X

JULY 9, 1953

Mr. Ray Schoessling, Secretary-Treasurer  
National Division of Brewery and Soft Drink Workers  
133 South Ashland Boulevard  
Chicago, Illinois

Dear Sir and Brother: Re: Letter from Robert Wenzell,  
Local 43-Burlington Brewery

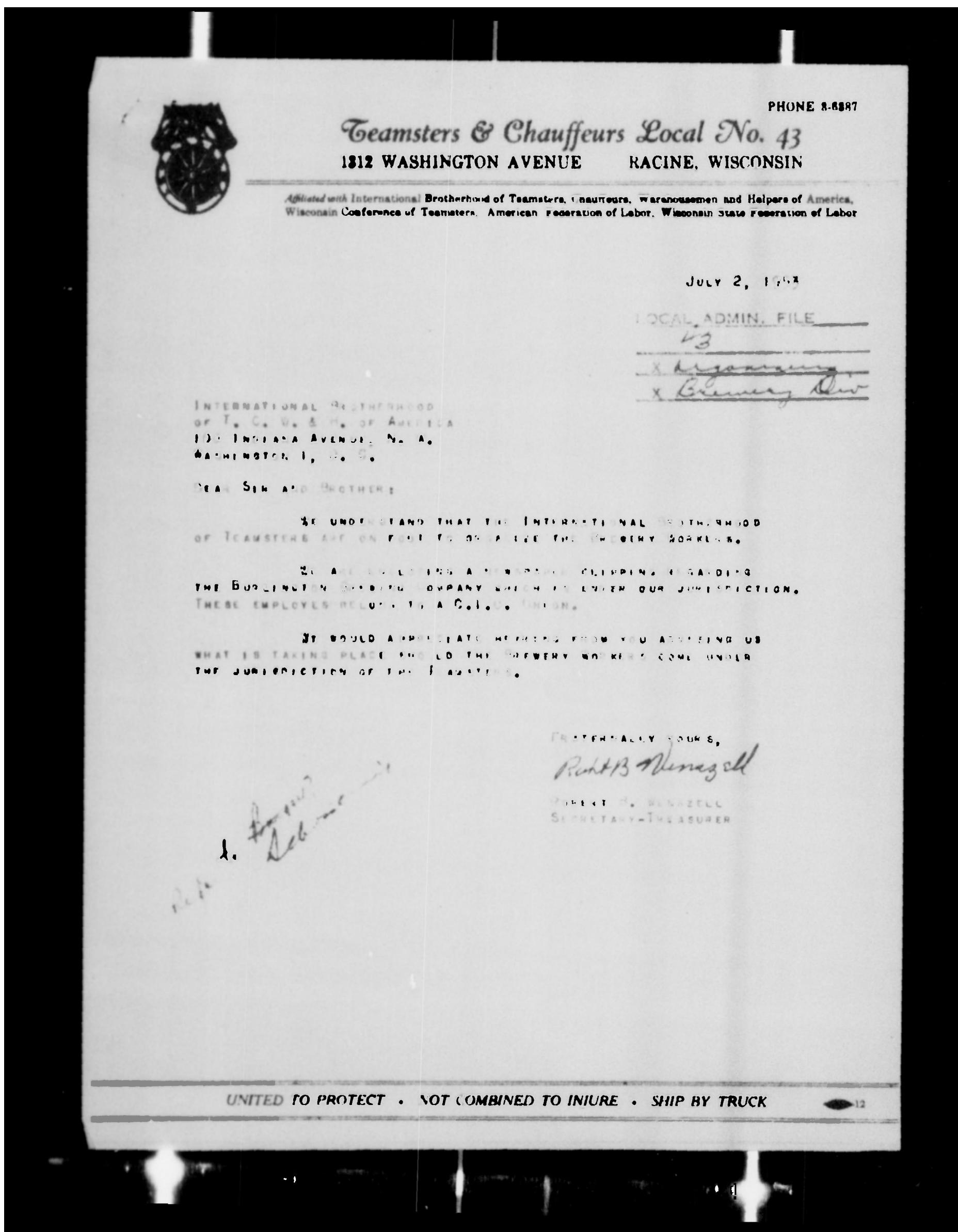
The enclosed letter is sent to you for attention in conformity  
with your administrative work in the brewery field. Will  
you give this office a report's reference to the subject  
matter so that we will be advised of your action.

Fraternally yours,

Einar O. Mohn, Assistant to  
the General President.

EOM:aw  
a  
enc.

FROM THE OFFICE OF  
DAVE RECK, GENERAL PRESIDENT  
INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF TEAMSTERS  
17



# Chicago Man Buys Brewery At Burlington

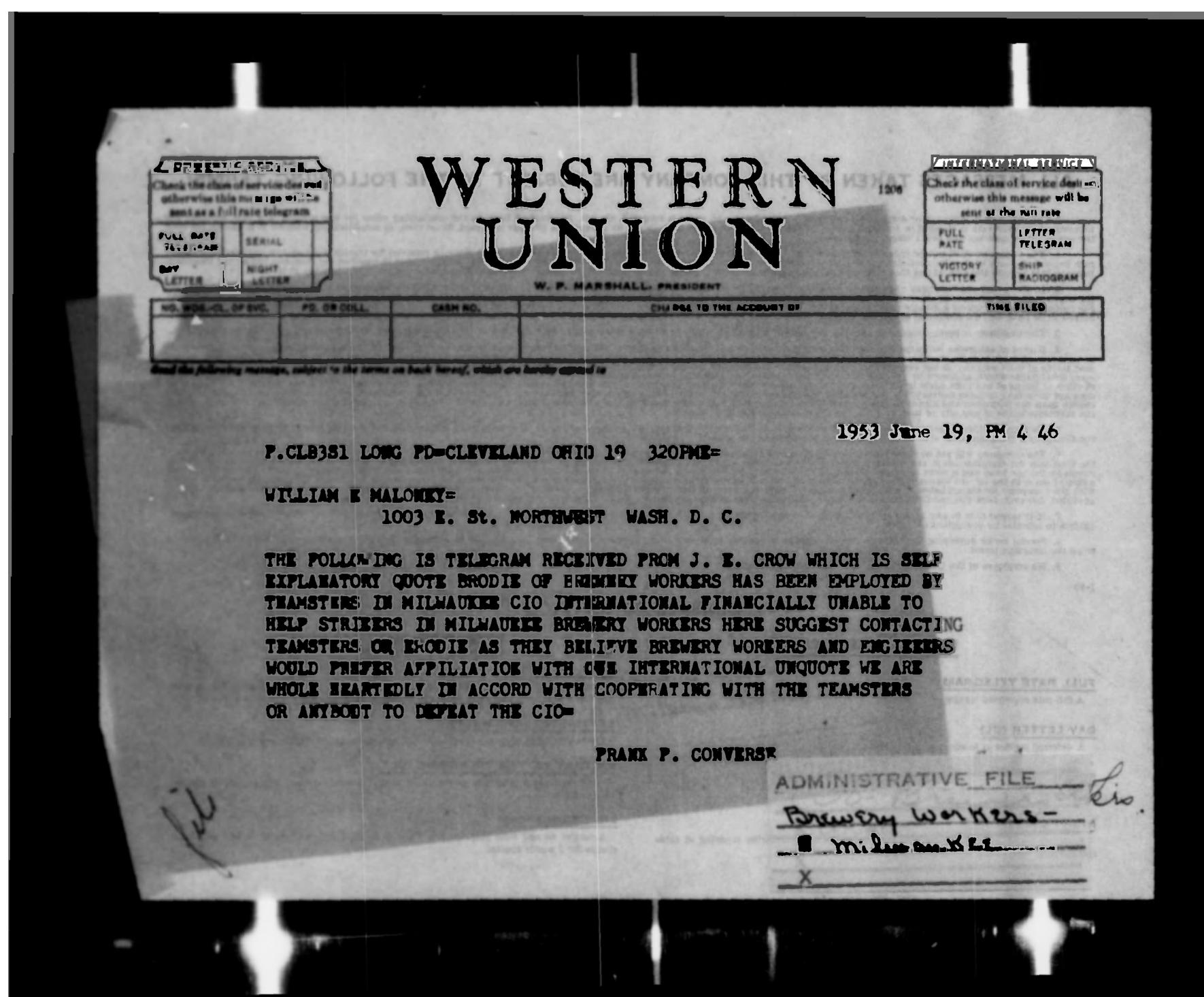
Burlington, Iowa, May 10.—  
Burlington Brewing Co. has  
been Circuit Court Tuesday, May 10, to May  
1500. Frank Chicago, presiden~~er~~ and owner  
of the Old Rose Distribution  
Co., second largest concern of its  
kind in Chicago, was ordered  
Circuit Court, Justice J. W. Palmer,  
Goodland, after his were  
Frank after his were  
before the court Tuesday a  
fore the return of the receiver  
the suit against Edward S.  
Tammage, Milwaukee, and  
consolidated.  
**3 Bids Submitted**  
Successful bid was  
submitted by one  
of the  
\$219,000.

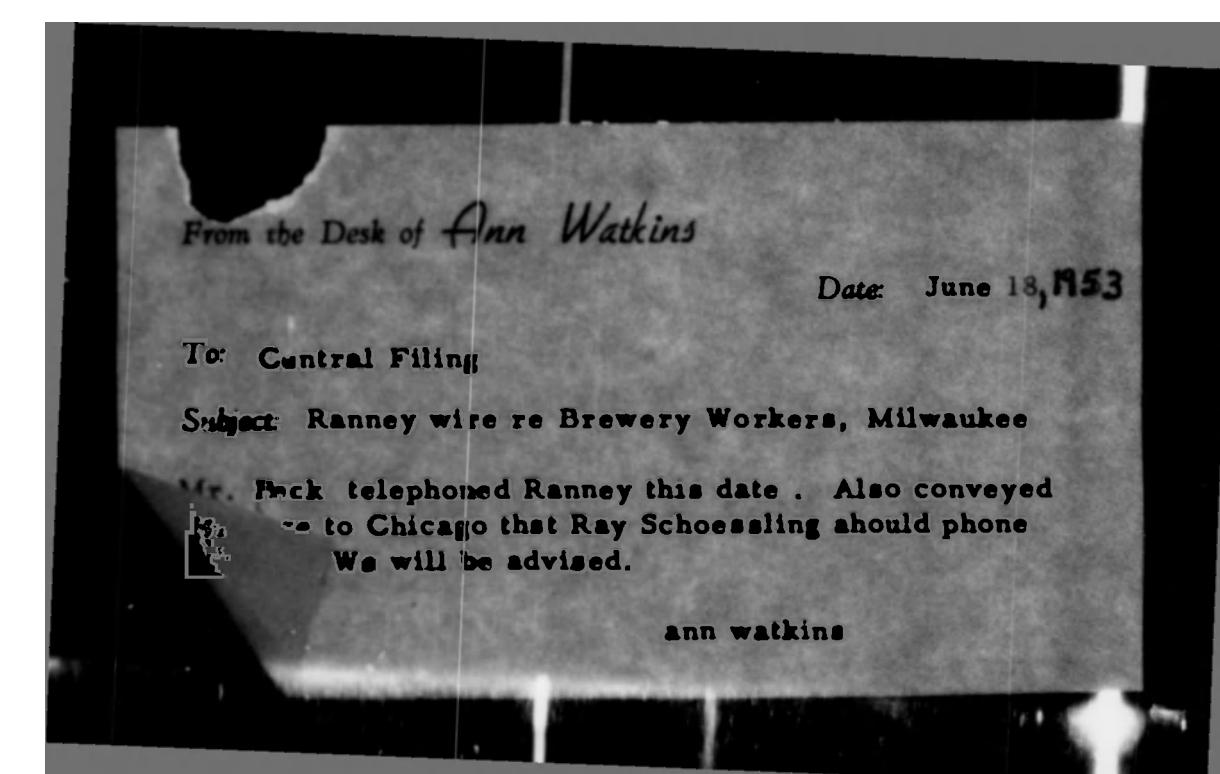
**Bids Submitted**

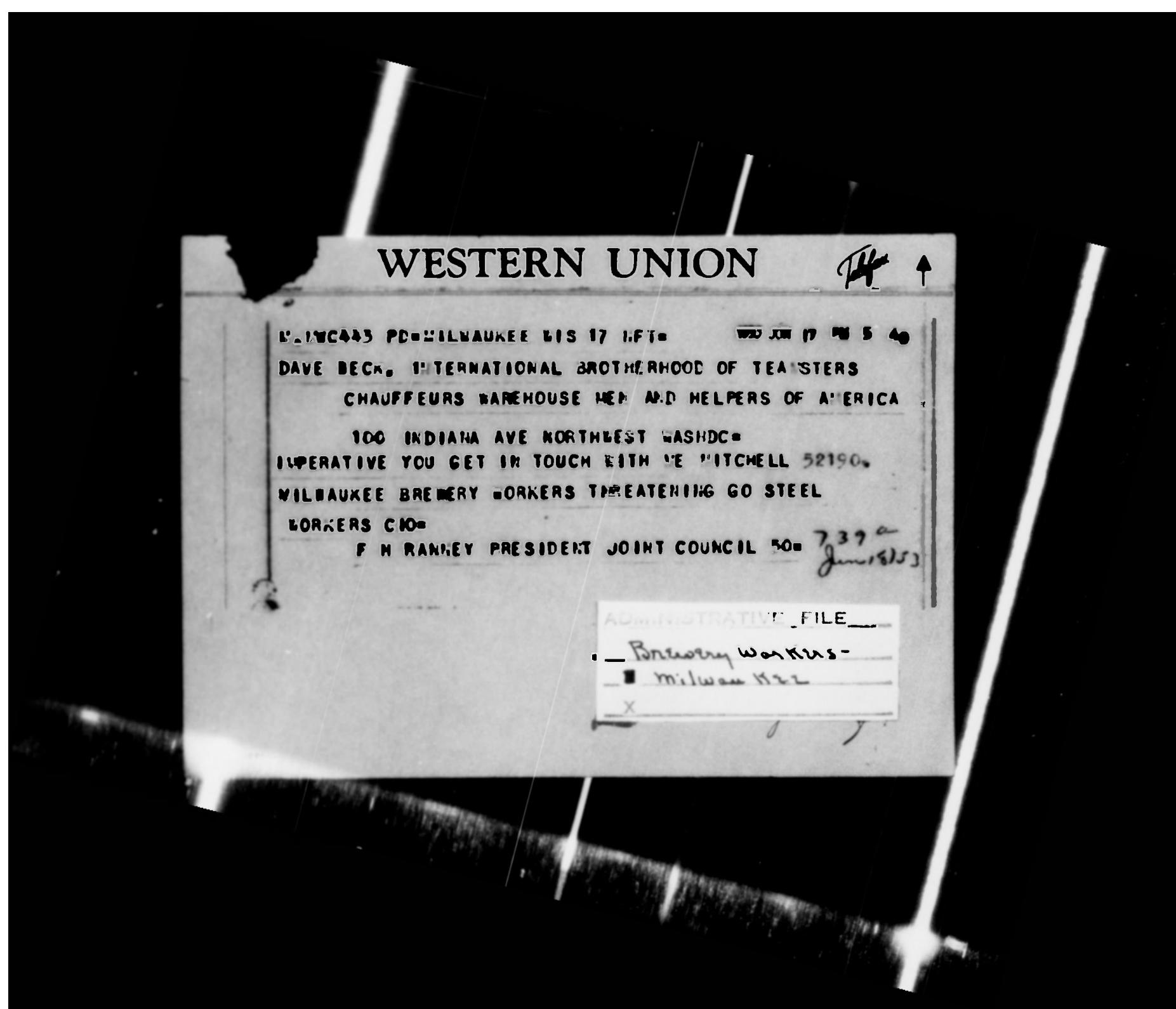
**Purchased in 1878**  
Furlington brewery was  
run Dahl and Fink in  
W. J. Fink and then turned  
the Fink-When brewery  
went dry.  
When in making  
occurred during  
firm  
tion

urchased in 1878

of Milwaukee has been open purchased in 1873 Burlington brewery from Dahl and Fink in 1880 W. J. Fink and then turned into barrels a day. It the Fink. When brewery went dry, it was used in making beer. A firm was manufactured during the year.







WILLIAM H. AMON  
DIRECTOR  
RAY SCHOESSLING  
SECY-TREAS.

JOSEPH J. QUILLIN  
REC. SECRETARY

TRUSTEES  
ANTONIO FELICETTA  
CHARLES C. HARRIS  
GEORGE CAVANO

VICE DIRECTORS  
JOHN MCKELVY  
JACK SCHLANT  
JOHN SAKATE  
MARTIN CRISTAN

AFFILIATED WITH THE  
U. S. OF T. D. U. AND C. O. A.  
THE AMERICAN FEDERATION  
OF LABOR

*National Conference of Brewery and Soft Drink Workers*  
PHONE MONROE 4572 818 SOUTH ASHLAND BOULEVARD CHICAGO 7, ILLINOIS

ADMINISTRATIVE FILE ✓  
Brewery Workers -  
■ Milwaukee  
X Communism

May 26, 1953

Mr. Dave Beck, General President  
International Brotherhood of Teamsters  
100 Indiana Avenue, N. W.  
Washington 1, D. C.

Dear Sir and Brother:

Enclosed please find copy of remarks of Senator Joseph McCarthy  
read into the Congressional Record, pertaining to the Commies  
from New York who visited Milwaukee recently. We might be able  
to use this if this strike goes into its third week.

If the situation for us changes in this matter, it might be possible  
that we could, through a newspaper ad a little later on, inform the  
Milwaukee brewery workers that their strike has been encouraged  
by people representing the Communist Party.

Another situation that is somewhat harmful to us, in the event this  
matter takes a turn toward our end, is that the Teamsters in the  
Milwaukee area (particularly Local 257) have been making deliveries  
through the picket line. This has brought about a tempo of ill-feeling  
toward the Teamsters. It seems that if we are going to try to achieve  
our end ultimately, we cannot incur the wrath of the people that we  
are going to try and have join us.

I do not know the answer to this one, except that we perhaps could  
ask the Milwaukee Locals to respect the picket line, to create or to  
encourage a friendly feeling toward the Teamsters. Would like to  
have your thinking on this.

Fraternally yours,

*Ray Schoessling*  
Ray Schoessling

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD - APPENDIX

Communist Influence

Extension of remarks of HON. JOSEPH R. McCARTHY of Wisconsin  
In the Senate of the United States - Thursday, May 14, 1953

Mr. McCarthy. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in  
the Appendix of the Record two telegrams which are self-explanatory.

There being no objection, the telegrams were ordered to be printed in the  
Record, as follows:

Chicago, Ill. May 12, 1953

Senator Joseph R. McCarthy,  
Senate Office Building

Two men respectively William Greenstein and John Hoh, active with a  
New York attorney Isidore Sipser in labor-union matters in metropolitan New York  
have been in Milwaukee recently in consultation with Milwaukee labor leaders,  
especially CIO brewery workers. Will appreciate it if you can furnish us with any  
information concerning any or all of these men.

Robert C. Bassett,  
Labor Counsel, Hearst Corp.

May 12, 1953

Mr. Robert C. Bassett,  
Labor Counsel, Hearst Corp.,  
Chicago, Ill.

In answer to your wire in regard to Greenstein, Sipser and Hoh, you  
are advised that William Greenstein of 2010 Ocean Avenue, Brooklyn, N.Y.,  
signed a Communist nominating petition in which he pledged to support the  
Communist candidate in 1939 and 1940. He also signed the independent nominating  
petition of the Communist Party for the elections of February 10, 1941, in the city  
of New York, as shown by page 1169 of the petitions notarized February 1, 1941.  
He also signed the Communist Party's independent nominating petition for the State  
of New York elections of November 5, 1946, as shown on page 659 of the petitions  
which were notarized August 28, 1946. He was identified with local 24, United  
Brewery Workers, CIO, Brooklyn, N.Y. The Communist Daily Worker for  
October 26, 1948, on page 1, reports that Greenstein spoke at a meeting which  
was supported by that Communist publication. The Communist Daily Worker  
of April 2, 1950, page 3, reports that William Greenstein, of local 24, United  
Brewery Workers, signed a petition against the Mundt anti-Communist bill.

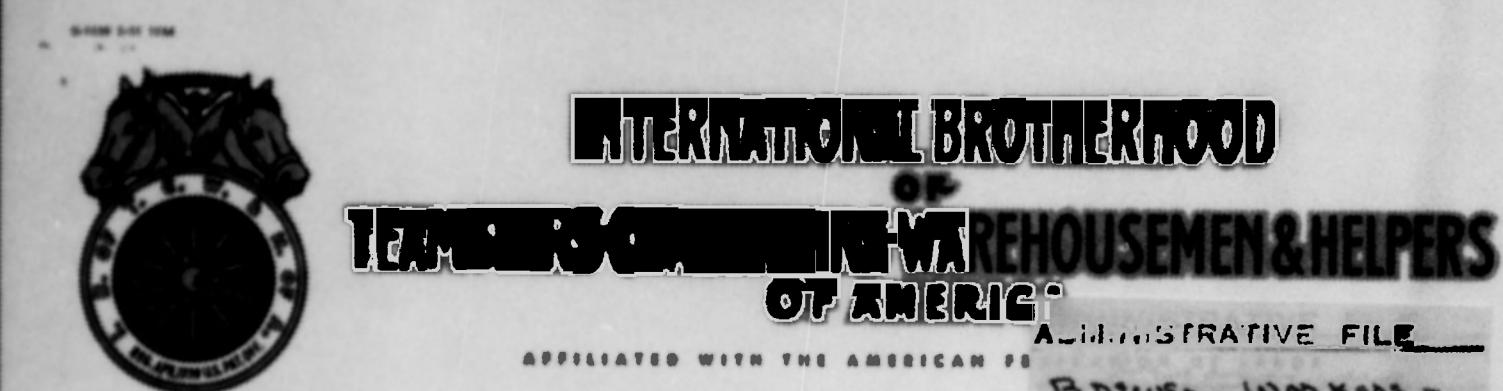
In regard to Isadore Sipser, the Daily Worker of October 3, 1944, page  
6, reported that Isadore Sipser was in charge of American Labor Party head-  
quarters, sixth assembly district, Brooklyn. The House Un-American Activities  
Committee in Report No. 1311, dated March 29, 1944, reported that the Com-  
munist Party had succeeded in capturing control of the Manhattan and Brooklyn  
sections of the American Labor Party. I. Phillip Sipser was a candidate for  
assemblyman, sixth assembly district, Brooklyn, according to the Communist  
Daily Worker of June 25, 1947, page 5. The Communist Daily Worker of  
October 2, 1947, page 4, also reports that I. Phillip Sipser was a candidate for  
assembly man for the sixth assembly district, Brooklyn, on the American Labor  
Party ticket, which source also identified him as an attorney. On October 26,  
1947, on page 6, the Communist Daily Worker again identified Isidore Phillip  
Sipser, the candidate for assemblyman, as a member of the firm of Boudin,  
Cohen, and Glickstein, at which time Sipser's photograph also appeared in the  
Communist Daily Worker. According to the New York Times of July 28, 1948,  
page 6, I. Phillip Sipser was the American Labor Party's candidate for the  
sixth assembly district of Kings County, N.Y. The Daily Worker of September 27,

Page - 2 -

1948, page 7, reported that I. Phillip Sipser was a member of a delegation organized by the Civil Rights Congress in behalf of Robert Thompson, a Communist. The Civil Rights Congress was formed April 1946 as a merger of two other Communist-front organizations, the International Labor Defense and the National Federation for Constitutional Liberties. The House Committee on Un-American Activities, on September 2, 1947, reported that the Civil Rights Congress is "dedicated to the defense of individual Communists and the Communist Party" and "controlled by individuals who are either members of the Communist Party or openly loyal to it".

In regard to John Hoh, the Communist Daily Worker of August 29, 1949, page 8, reported that one John Hoh, local 69, Brewery Workers, was a sponsor of the "conference on democracy and autonomy in the CIO". According to a press release of the 12th CIO convention, November 20-24, 1950, the United Public Workers of America and the United Office and Professional Workers of America, which sponsored the above conferences, were expelled from the CIO. According to the Communist Daily Worker of January 25, 1942, page 5, section 2, one J. Hoh, identified as office manager of local 6, Hotel and Restaurant Employees International Alliance and Bartenders International League of America, AFL, New York City, signed a petition to the President of the United States for the release of Earl Browder, former secretary of the Communist Party, from Atlanta Penitentiary.

Joe McCarthy  
United States Senate.



AFFILIATED WITH THE AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

Brewery Workers -

■ Milwaukee

X

OFFICE OF  
HENRY G. BURGER  
GENERAL ORGANIZER  
216 SOUTH ASHLAND BOULEVARD  
CHICAGO 7, ILLINOIS  
HAYMARKET 1-5516

Mr. Dave Beck, General President  
International Brotherhood of Teamsters  
100 Indiana Ave., N. W.  
Washington 1, D. C.

May 25, 1953

check it with  
serviced + sent last  
to Milwaukee per  
mark below  
28th

Re: Milwaukee Brewery Situation

Dear Sir and Brother:

Pursuant to your instructions, I went to Milwaukee and arranged a meeting with Eugene Brody, a former member of the International Board of the Brewery Workers International Union, C. I. O.

We had quite a lengthy discussion and covered about everything which would be of any possible use to us in trying to organize the brewery workers in the city of Milwaukee. Brody had been discharged due to the fact that he had been a supporter of Heywood when he was running against Reuther for the presidency of the C. I. O. Brody is very well liked in Milwaukee by all of the brewery workers and it is his opinion that there might be something done in the very near future, but not immediately, because, as you know, the Brewery Workers are on strike right now.

I have also contacted a former officer of Local #9 of the Brewery Workers, named Finley, who is sympathetic to our cause and may be instrumental in helping Brody bring this whole crowd over at sometime in the near future. He also is of the opinion that it would not be feasible to attempt it now, but to do so if the strike continues for any length of time. He is a very conservative fellow and not apt to use snap judgment. Both of these men would be valuable assets up there to help swing this deal.

Mr. Dave Beck  
General President

Page - 2 -

May 25, 1953

After checking with Frank Raney of Local #200, Milwaukee, Wisc., it is my opinion that this job, in order to be successful, will have to be done within the ranks and I feel that the men mentioned above would be able to do this quicker and more satisfactorily than anyone else.

There seems to be a great deal of unrest among all of the men - both the C. I. O. and the employers. Because of this, I believe we could get in on the ground floor by hiring this fellow, Brody, and possibly Finley, to lay the ground work that would be essential in finally working the membership into the Teamsters Union.

Brody is 59 years old and is from Boulder Junction, Wisconsin. He joined the Brewery Workers at Wausau in 1935 and moved to Milwaukee Local #9 in 1937. Moved from shop steward to secretary of Local in 1942. In 1946 he was elected to the International Executive Board and in 1947 was appointed organizer. In July, 1952, by convention action, no executive board member could serve as general organizer; he was then compelled to give up his membership on the executive board. On March 13, 1953 he was removed from the field as general organizer by the executive board on recommendation of Chas. Lindbergh, general organizer.

The Brewery Workers have about 62,000 members in their International, ten or eleven thousand in Wisconsin. As an organizer, Brody received \$125.00 per week salary, \$15.00 per diem for expenses and 7¢ per mile for the use of his automobile.

Hoping to hear from you shortly, I am

Fraternally yours,

*Henry G. Burger*  
Henry G. Burger

HGB/ph

*C*  
E. B. Brody  
Boulder Junction, Wis.  
April 27, 1953

TO ALL LOCAL UNIONS AND BRANCHES:

Dear Sirs and Brothers:

By this time you have, no doubt, been informed of my recent dismissal as a field representative of the International Union, and I feel that I would be remiss in my obligation as a rank and file member of the International Union should I at this time fail to inform you and through you, the rank and file members of your local union, as to the shady procedure and the phoney accusations engaged in by the General Organizer and finally approved by the General Executive Board, who in my opinion, with few exceptions, is a "rubber-stamp" board.

My dismissal as a field representative took place on March 13, 1953, and I was not officially notified of said dismissal until March 19, 1953, and said dismissal was carried out without charges being served upon me, without notification of a hearing, and without being allowed to appear before said body with the privilege to defend myself which is a common legal function, not only in labor union constitutions but in the constitution of our country itself.

To be very frank, it is my candid opinion that the actual underlying fact which brought about this action by the general organizer and the Executive Board was my entering the field of union politics as a candidate for the office of General Organizer, and if this be true, there is but one conclusion and that is that our present general officers and Executive Board have deteriorated to the unsavory depths of a political machine within an International Labor Union which was intended by its founders to be of service to its rank and file members, rather than to a chosen group of political "hangers-on".

I very sincerely feel that the fact that I have been removed from the service, suddenly cut off from income, as well as insurance, pension rights, etc. is not the real issue, but on the contrary the issue of great importance is the fact that democracy is gradually but surely being eliminated as an outstanding virtue from a once proud and noble International Brewery Workers Union which down through the years has commanded the respect of laymen everywhere.

I am happy for the privilege of conveying to you a brief summary of this very unusual action by your General Officers and General Executive Board and feel confident that you too will recognize the critical situation that our International Union faces as the result of such undemocratic and unamerican reprisals of which I have been made the victim, and in the category of labor been reduced to second class citizenship.

Faternally yours,

*E. B. Brody*  
E. B. Brody  
Local No. 9, Boulder Junction, Wis.

MARCH 31, 1953

Mr. W. D. Hancock, General Organizer  
International Brotherhood of Teamsters  
816 West National Avenue  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Dear Sir and Brother:

Your letter outlining the brewery situation in Milwaukee received. The subject matter contained in your letter will be referred to our National Brewery Conference Policy Committee which will meet in Chicago on April 27. I would like to have you arrange to be available to meet with this Committee.

Fraternally yours,

EOM:aw

Einar O. Mohn, Assistant to  
the General president.

FROM THE OFFICE OF  
DAVE DELL, GENERAL PRESIDENT  
INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF TEAMSTERS



**INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD  
OF  
TEAMSTERS·CHAUFFEURS·WAREHOUSEMEN&HELPERS  
OF AMERICA**  
AFFILIATED WITH THE  
AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

March 28, 1953

Mr. Elmer O. Mohn  
Assistant to the General President  
International Brotherhood of Teamsters  
100 Indiana Avenue, N. W.  
Washington 5, D. C.

Dear Sir and Brother:

I discussed the possibilities of the breweries of Milwaukee being organized under the Teamsters's jurisdiction, with Vice-President, Jim Hoffa.

There are approximately 6800 men involved in Schlitz, Blatz, Pabst, Gettelmann, Milwaukee Independent and Miller breweries. These contracts expired on March 1, 1953 having been 3 year contracts. There is an estimate on the number of members involved in the breweries, of about 6800, besides an additional 2200 members who are under separate contracts with the malt houses, yeast, grain and other companies. The entire membership of Local #9, CIO, is 9000. The big problem now is to influence enough members of the CIO Brewery Workers to sign only a one year contract, instead of the usual three year contract.

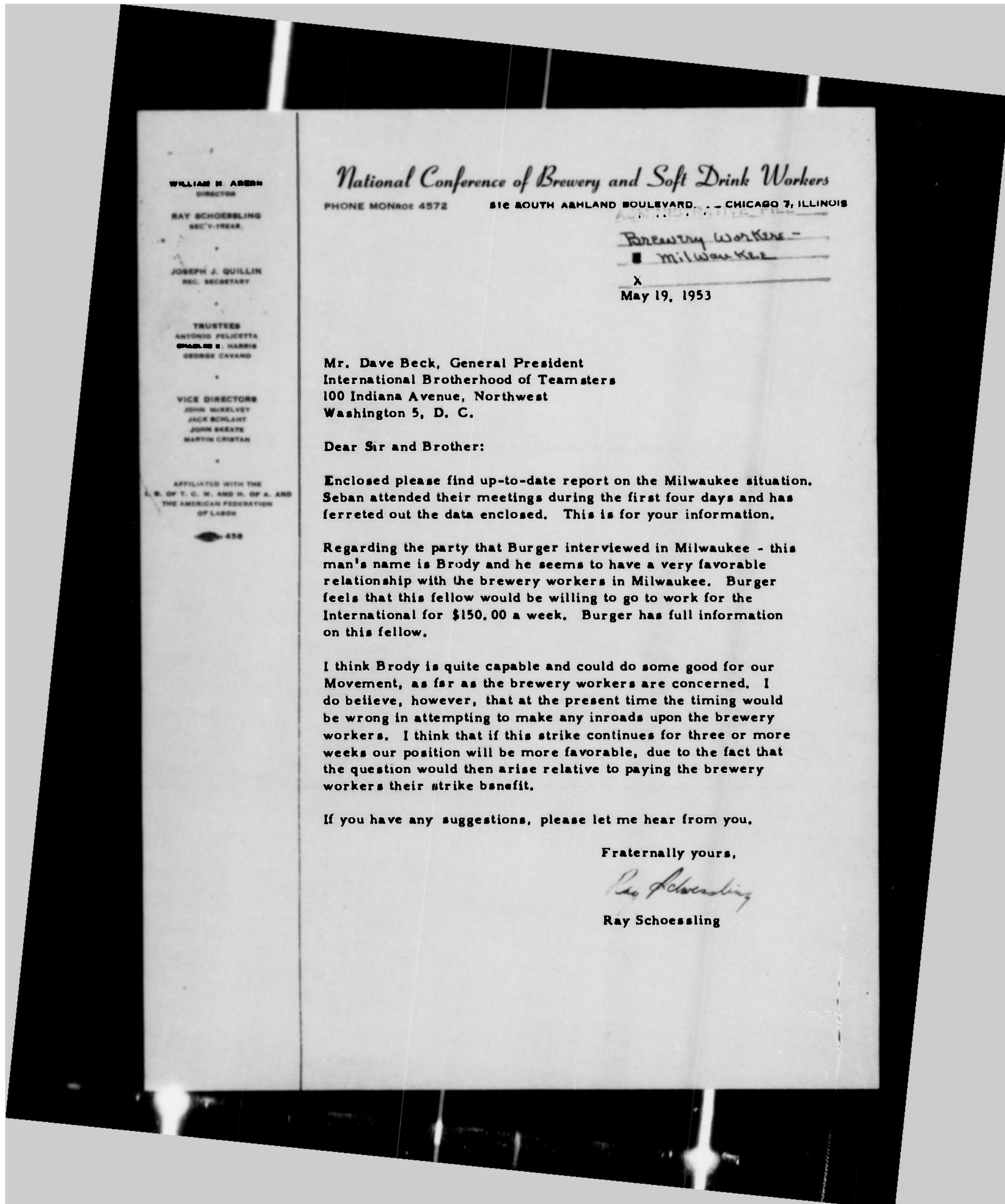
The committee with which we have contact feels that they have a following of approximately 3000 members at their meetings. This committee, consisting of workers from Schlitz, Miller's and Pabst, is now getting names and addresses of other employees who might possibly be interested in transferring to the Teamsters. They would like to know if we have any contracts with the breweries anywhere else in the U. S., and if so, what the wages and conditions are in these particular breweries.

Vice-President Hoffa informs me that you have a listing of all the breweries in the country, their affiliations and wages. If such listing is available, I would appreciate receiving a copy as soon as possible.

Faternally yours,

*W. D. Hancock*  
W. D. Hancock  
International Organizer

WDH:vd



To: Ray Schoessling, Secretary-Treasurer, National Conference of Brewery and Soft Drink Workers

Re: Brewery Workers Strike - Milwaukee, Wisconsin - Thursday, May 14, 1953, 6:00 A.M.

Picketing - 24 hours around the clock; 4-hour shifts. Each and every brewery in Milwaukee is affected by the strike and picketing is taking place at all breweries. There was no attempt on the part of anyone to go through the picket lines.

The Issue - 1) Reduce the work week from 40 hours to 35 hours.

- 2) Increase the base pay across the board 25¢ per hour.
- 3) Health, welfare and pension program.

Negotiations - Local 9 of the C.I.O., with the assistance of State C.I.O. officials, had notified management of their desire to negotiate the new contract on January 22, 1953. Management did not agree to meet with Labor until March 18. Negotiations continued until Sunday, May 9. During that time Management made no concessions; none whatsoever. At a mass meeting a strike vote was taken; 6,652 in favor of strike, 108 against. This strike action was forwarded to the International and the International approved same. As a result, the strike went into effect at 6:00 A.M Thursday morning, May 14.

Management and Labor met during Thursday and far into Friday evening and finally broke off. During negotiations in Thursday night's session, management refused to agree to make any wage increases retroactive to March 1, when the old contracts expired, and also refused to continue negotiations throughout the week-end.

Management asked that the men return to work on the old contract, and that negotiations would be renewed in an effort to reach some understanding. Local 9

proposed to continue the men on strike, but to work around the clock in the matter of negotiations; only, however, if management would agree to a retroactive date of March 1.

During negotiations management asked for stand-by help in their power houses and refrigeration plants. Once again the Union retaliated by saying that they would grant stand-by help providing management would make wages and conditions retroactive to March 1 and that the strike would be settled within 48 hours. Management refused this offer to make retroactive and to settle within 48 hours because of the great differences in the work week and the hourly rate. As a result, stand-by help was not provided.

Schlitz and Pabst breweries have a half-million bushels of barley germinating into malt which will spoil unless stand-by help is provided. As of Sunday, May 17, no stand-by help was provided. The breweries had notified the International Union and Local 9 that they were suing them for any losses of barley and malt that occurred during the strike because of the refusal to grant stand-by help. However, the International and the Local Union had notified the breweries that they had properly and legally served out their ten-day notice, which is required in the Wisconsin State Food Spoilage Act, and because the breweries didn't feel that they were going to act on the strike, the responsibility lies completely with the breweries. That being technically correct, as well as the strike vote being properly taken by the Local and endorsed by the International puts the Milwaukee strike on a full legal and correct basis.

Miller's and Blatz were granted stand-by help up to Saturday morning because nobody in a supervisory capacity was familiar with shutting down the plants.

The Union feels that Schlitz and Pabst do have supervisory employees who could shut down the power plants and protect the barley in germination.

Those are the issues as of Sunday afternoon at 6:00 P. M. and it is rumored that the negotiations would again begin on Monday which is today, May 18.

Morale - 1) Extremely good. Sound trucks on the scene to provide music and baseball results, as well as soup kitchens; strike captains and shop stewards circulate among the men continually and bolster their spirits.

2) A mass meeting was called for Saturday morning (May 16) at 10:00 A. M. All Locals of the C. I. O. in Milwaukee area were invited to attend. I attended that meeting and found that very few men of other Local Unions were in attendance, but that at least 3,500 brewery workers did attend. The men were addressed by their Local Union officials and by Messrs. Carl Feller and Lindberg of the International Union of Brewery Workers. Personal representatives of Walter Reuther, representing Steel, the United Auto Workers and certain Labor Bodies of the C. I. O. throughout the State of Wisconsin were present and spoke.

The Brewery Workers International president and secretary-treasurer spoke on the necessity of winning their fight in Milwaukee, using the Milwaukee scale and showing that it is far below the New York, Newark and California scales, both in wages and in hours, and that Milwaukee being the brewing center of greatest importance in the world should be first instead of being last, and that the 35-hour week is the most important issue at hand. The International pledged their support to the workers, financially and morally, and asked that they do not change their demands in any way, shape or form and to fight it out all along the line.

In all of the remarks made by the speakers, representing the brewery workers, the United Auto Workers and the steel workers, it seemed that the inference and the tone of their remarks directed to the men was to stand together; not to let any outside influence change their present feelings, and to stand by their officials and to pay no attention to any propaganda developed by either management or outside sources to weaken their cause.

International President Feller touched lightly on the Teamsters, although he didn't mention the Teamsters, and asked that the membership disregard any overtures made by the dual organizations.

3) Another meeting was called for Sunday morning (May 17) at 10:00 A.M. I also attended this meeting. Very little was said at the meeting that hadn't been said at Saturday's meeting. There were no negotiations over the week-end so there was nothing to report, insofar as changing the strike conditions. The meeting was held purely for a morale stimulant.

Strike Benefits - Thursday night, while I was walking the picket line as a picket, at 12:00 midnight at the changing of the shift, a pamphlet was distributed to the men going off the picket lines and to the new crews coming on, advising them that a strike counseling unit had been established at the Local Union headquarters to assist in financial aid, medical care, legal aid, personal or family problems, health and welfare problems. The pamphlet described how to obtain these benefits.

The pamphlet also set forth that the International Union no longer pays \$15.00 per week strike benefits to its members on strike, but in its place the International Union contributes, under certain conditions, \$5.00 per week per man to the Local Union's Strike Relief Fund.

The Union is aware that many of its members could be evicted for non-payment of rent should the strike go on for any length of time and wants to be prepared to offset such a serious blow to the members' morale; therefore, providing this special service (Milwaukee has the highest rent rate in the United States and landlords resort to eviction on the slightest provocation).

I have ascertained from the men as I walked the picket line after they had received this pamphlet informing them of the \$5.00 per week under certain conditions, that although they will only receive \$5.00 from the International Union, the consensus of opinion is that the Local Union will add \$10.00 to bring the strike benefits up to the former strike benefits during the strike of 1948, which amounted to \$15.00. (That doesn't seem very possible. 9,000 members at \$10.00 per week is \$90,000.00 - I saw a copy of their financial statement, although I was not able to keep it, and it lists the Local Union's total assets as \$165,000.00).

During Saturday's meeting the Local Union in LaCrosse sent a telegram to the Chairman of the meeting, informing him that their Local Union was forwarding a check in the amount of \$450.00, representing a \$1.00 assessment on 450 members for the month of May. Also during Saturday's meeting and after the reading of that telegram, the secretary-treasurer of Local 9 informed the members that they expect many, many more contributions for the members' benefits, because Local 9 has always supported any brewery workers' strike throughout the entire United States by assessment to their Local members of \$1.00 per month.

Factors that could be developed to encourage Teamsters affiliation:

- 1) There are approximately 1,000 former Teamsters working in the breweries and for the breweries out of approximately 7,000. This figure does not

include the malt houses and granaries in the area.

2) The beer depots, which hire approximately 650 drivers, laborers and warehousemen in the Milwaukee area are affiliated with the Teamsters.

3) During the strike, Teamsters Local 200 of Milwaukee expects to absorb 300 or 400 brewery workers as truck drivers for the area, inasmuch as there is a shortage of truck drivers at present. It might be well to inform the Truck Drivers Local Unions who put brewery workers to work during the strike to record their names and addresses for whatever future use they may be.

4) There is a rumble among the younger men that they are being neglected in the negotiations because during the past three or four years there has been an Article (which the Brewery Workers Union agreed to) in which management can hire any man under 21 years of age to work in the breweries on any type of work that they have for him and pay him at a rate that is classified as a "boy" rate. This rate allows the breweries to pay \$1.50 per hour, and that rate remains in effect for three years (not until he reaches 21, but for three years from the date of his employment.)

The breweries have been, from time to time, down-grading the old-timers with 20 and 30 years of service who are slowing up on their jobs and have been replacing them with the lower, "boy" rate help. However, in down-grading the old-timers, they are putting them in a classification known as a "utility" rate, which is paid at the rate of \$1.80 per hour; 20¢ less, in most cases, than their regular classification. The ratio is one "boy" to every twenty men throughout each and every brewery.

This information could be constructive in two ways: Should the negotiations fail to remove the "boy" classification, and also fail to provide a health, welfare and pension fund for the old-timers who are ready for retirement, we would have two good-sized dissatisfied groups.

5) The Miller High Life Brewery, due to its great expansion program, has relatively young men in their employ; not so much to gain the "boy" rate because they are considered a very fair brewery, but because of their expansion program. Schlitz, Pabst and Blatz are considered old-timers' breweries - second and third generations have worked for these breweries over the period of years - and from what information I could glean from the workers on the picket lines as I walked with them at different times during the days and nights, Schlitz is the key to any infiltration that is possible because, in the opinion of the men, the way Schlitz goes so goes Local 9.

6) The officials of Local 9 seem to be extremely bitter toward the Schlitz and Pabst Breweries.

7) Under remarks headed "Strike Benefits" I called your attention to the \$5.00 per week and the \$10.00 additional benefits which the men are anticipating. Presently the men are not drawing strike benefits because the breweries have always held up two weeks' pay so that on Tuesday, May 19, the men will receive one week's pay which they had earned prior to the strike, and on Tuesday, May 26, they will have three additional days' pay coming; so that probably a week from the 26th the first strike benefits will be paid from the Local Union and the men will then be at the mercy of the elements.

In my opinion, it is important that the week beginning May 25 the rumbling and the dissatisfaction will begin on the part of the men, should no strike settlement be reached in the meantime. Inasmuch as I gleaned all my information

by circulating among the men and attending the members' meetings, it is difficult for me to know just what the true picture is from management's side. However, the 25¢ an hour which Local 9 is asking for was paid to C.I.O. brewery workers in New York, but New York has a 37 1/2-hour week and Local 9 is asking for a 35-hour week.

8) The officials of Local 9 are, of course, men who have come from the ranks, and it seems that yearly, or every two years, new officers are elected. I have not found that there are any present officers who have held their jobs with Local 9 for any longer than a one-term tenure. Former officers revert back to their former jobs in the breweries, and I have heard of several recent officials who have strong followings. One, by the name of Brody, a former Local 9 official, carried 6,000 out of 7,000 votes from his Local Union when he ran for an office on the Executive Board. He is now working in a brewery, to the best of my knowledge.

Irwin "Pat" Finley, presently working at Pabst, is another potential that the Teamaters could develop. I am sure there are more, but for the present, and in order to protect my position on the line, I did not want to appear too inquisitive, but I feel that there are more former officials who, with the proper approach, would swing their following to the Teamaters.

During the four days I was in Milwaukee, arriving Thursday at 3:00 P.M. and leaving Sunday at 5:00 P.M., my attendance on this assignment was undetected, and at no time did I jeopardize the International Brotherhood of Teamsters by my presence.

Fraternally submitted,

Frank A. Seban

WILLIAM H. AHREIN  
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AFFILIATED WITH THE  
A. F. F. T. C. & THE A. F. L. AND  
THE AMERICAN FEDERATION  
OF LABOR

*National Conference of Brewery and Soft Drink Workers*  
PHONE MONROE 2572 216 SOUTH ASHLAND BOULEVARD CHICAGO 7, ILLINOIS

ADMINISTRATIVE FILE  
Brewery Workers  
Milwaukee  
X

May 19, 1953

Mr. Einar Mohn, Vice President  
International Brotherhood of Teamsters  
100 Indiana Avenue, Northwest  
Washington 5, D. C.

Dear Sir and Brother:

Enclosed find report on the Brewery Workers situation  
in Milwaukee as it exists at the present time.

Fraternally yours,

*Ray Schoessling*  
Ray Schoessling  
Secretary-Treasurer

To: Ray Schoessling, Secretary-Treasurer, National Conference of Brewery and  
Soft Drink Workers

Re: Brewery Workers Strike - Milwaukee, Wisconsin - Thursday, May 14, 1953, 6:00 A.M.

Picketing - 24 hours around the clock; 4-hour shifts. Each and every brewery in Milwaukee is affected by the strike and picketing is taking place at all breweries. There was no attempt on the part of anyone to go through the picket lines.

The issue - 1) Reduce the work week from 40 hours to 35 hours.

- 2) Increase the base pay across the board 25¢ per hour.
- 3) Health, welfare and pension program.

Negotiations - Local 9 of the C.I.O., with the assistance of State C.I.O. officials, had notified management of their desire to negotiate the new contract on January 22, 1953. Management did not agree to meet with Labor until March 18. Negotiations continued until Sunday, May 9. During that time Management made no concessions; none whatsoever. At a mass meeting a strike vote was taken; 6,652 in favor of strike, 108 against. This strike action was forwarded to the International and the International approved same. As a result, the strike went into effect at 6:00 A.M. Thursday morning, May 14.

Management and Labor met during Thursday and far into Friday evening and finally broke off. During negotiations in Thursday night's session, management refused to agree to make any wage increases retroactive to March 1, when the old contract expired, and also refused to continue negotiations throughout the week-end.

Management asked that the men return to work on the old contract, and that negotiations would be renewed in an effort to reach some understanding. Local 9

proposed to continue the men on strike, but to work around the clock in the matter of negotiations; only, however, if management would agree to a retroactive date of March 1.

During negotiations management asked for stand-by help in their power houses and refrigeration plants. Once again the Union retaliated by saying that they would grant stand-by help providing management would make wages and conditions retroactive to March 1 and that the strike would be settled within 48 hours. Management refused this offer to make retroactive and to settle within 48 hours because of the great difference in the work week and the hourly rate. As a result, stand-by help was not provided.

Schlitz and Pabst breweries have a half-million bushels of barley germinating into malt which will spoil unless stand-by help is provided. As of Sunday, May 17, no stand-by help was provided. The breweries had notified the International Union and Local 9 that they were suing them for any losses of barley and malt that occurred during the strike because of the refusal to grant stand-by help. However, the International and the Local Union had notified the breweries that they had properly and legally served out their ten-day notice, which is required in the Wisconsin State Food Spoilage Act, and because the breweries didn't feel that they were going to act on the strike, the responsibility lies completely with the breweries. That being technically correct, as well as the strike vote being properly taken by the Local and endorsed by the International puts the Milwaukee strike on a fair legal and correct basis.

Miller's and Blatz were granted stand-by help up to Saturday morning because nobody in a supervisory capacity was familiar with shutting down the plants.

The Union feels that Schlitz and Pabst do have supervisory employees who could shut down the power plants and protect the barley in germination.

These are the issues as of Tuesday afternoon at 6:00 P. M. and it is rumored that the negotiations would again begin on Monday which is today, May 18.

Morale - 1) Extremely good. Sound tracks on the scene to provide music and baseball results, as well as soap kitchen; strike captains and shop stewards circulate among the men continually and bolster their spirits.

2) A mass meeting was called for Saturday morning (May 19) at 10:00 A. M. All Locals of the C. I. O. in Milwaukee area were invited to attend. I attended that meeting and found that very few men of other Local Unions were in attendance, but that at least 3,500 brewery workers did attend. The men were addressed by their Local Union officials and by Messrs. Carl Fisher and Lindberg of the International Union of Brewery Workers. Personal representatives of Walter Reuther, representing Steel, the United Auto Workers and certain Labor Bodies of the C. I. O. throughout the State of Wisconsin were present and spoke.

The Brewery Workers International president and secretary-treasurer spoke on the necessity of winning their fight in Milwaukee, using the Milwaukee scale and showing that it is far below the New York, Newark and California scales, both in wages and in hours, and that Milwaukee being the brewing center of greatest importance in the world should be first instead of being last, and that the 35-hour week is the most important issue at hand. The International pledged their support to the workers, financially and morally, and asked that they do not change their demands in any way, shape or form and to fight it out all along the line.

The Union is aware that many of its members could be evicted for non-payment of rent should the strike go on for any length of time and wants to see workers, the United Auto Workers and the steel workers, it seemed that the inference prepared to offset such a serious blow to the members' morale; therefore, prepared to stand together; not to let any outside influence change their present feelings, and to stand by their officials and to pay attention to any propaganda developed by either management or outside sources to weaken their cause.

I have ascertained from the men as I walked the picket line after they had received this pamphlet informing them of the \$5.00 per week under certain International President Feller touched lightly on the Teamsters, conditions, that although they will only receive \$1.00 from the International Union, although he didn't mention the Teamsters, and asked that the membership disregard the statement of opinion is that the Local Union will add \$10.00 to bring the strike any overtures made by the dual organizations.

benefits up in the former strike benefits during the strike of 1948, which amounted to \$15.00. (That doesn't seem very possible. 9,000 members at \$1.00 per week.) I also attended this meeting. Very little was said at the meeting that hadn't been said at Saturday's meeting. There were no negotiations over the week-end as there was nothing to report, toward so changing the strike conditions. The meeting was held purely for a morale stimulant.

During Saturday's meeting the Local Union in LaCrosse sent a telegram to the Chairman of the meeting, informing him that their Local Union was forwarding a check in the amount of \$450.00, representing a \$1.00 assessment Strike benefits. Thursday night, while I was walking the picket line as a picket, 10,000 members for the month of May. Also during Saturday's meeting the men at 12:00 midnight at the changing of the shift, a pamphlet was distributed to the men the reading of that telegram. The Secretary-Treasurer of Local 9 informed the men going off the picket lines and to the new crews coming on, advising them that a strike benefits that they could many, many more contributions for the members' benefits, counseling unit had been established at the Local Union headquarters to assist in because Local 9 has always supported any brewery workers' strike throughout the entire United States by assessment to their Local members of \$1.00 per month welfare problems. The pamphlet described how to obtain these benefits.

The pamphlet also set forth that the International Union no longer pays factors that could be developed in the International Union contract, International International Union contract, under certain conditions, \$5.00 per week per man, to the Local Union's Strike Relief Fund.

In all of the remarks made by the speakers, representing the brewery workers, the United Auto Workers and the steel workers, it seemed that the inference and the tone of their remarks directed to the men was to stand together; not to let any outside influence change their present feelings, and to stand by their officials and to pay no attention to any propaganda developed by either management or outside sources to weaken their cause.

International President Feller touched lightly on the Teamsters, although he didn't mention the Teamsters, and asked that the membership disregard any overtures made by the Nazi organizations.

3) Another meeting was called for Sunday morning (May 17) at 10:00 A. M. I also attended this meeting. Very little was said at the meeting that hadn't been said at Saturday's meeting. There were no negotiations over the week-end so there was nothing to report, insofar as changing the strike conditions. The meeting was held purely for a morale stimulant.

Strike Benefits - Thursday night, while I was walking the picket line as a picket, at 12:00 midnight at the changing of the shift, a pamphlet was distributed to the men going off the picket lines and to the new crews coming on, advising them that a strike counseling unit had been established at the Local Union headquarters to assist in financial aid, medical care, legal aid, personal or family problems, health and welfare problems. The pamphlet described how to obtain these benefits.

The pamphlet also set forth that the International Union no longer pays \$15.00 per week strike benefits to its members on strike, but in its place the International Union contributes, under certain conditions, \$5.00 per week per man to the Local Union's Strike Relief Fund.

The Union is aware that many of its members could be evicted for non-payment of rent should the strike go on for any length of time and wants to be prepared to offset such a serious blow to the members' morale; therefore, providing this special service (Milwaukee has the highest rent rate in the United States and landlords resort to eviction on the slightest provocation).

I have ascertained from the men as I walked the picket line after they had received this pamphlet informing them of the \$5.00 per week under certain conditions, that although they will only receive \$5.00 from the International Union, the consensus of opinion is that the Local Union will add \$10.00 to bring the strike benefits up to the former strike benefits during the strike of 1946, which amounted to \$15.00. (That doesn't seem very possible. 9,000 members at \$10.00 per week is \$90,000.00 - I saw a copy of their financial statement, although I was not able to keep it, and it lists the Local Union's total assets as \$165,000.00).

During Saturday's meeting the Local Union in LaCrosse sent a telegram to the Chairman of the meeting, informing him that their Local Union was forwarding a check in the amount of \$450.00, representing a \$1.00 assessment on 450 members for the month of May. Also during Saturday's meeting and after the reading of that telegram, the secretary-treasurer of Local 9 informed the members that they expect many, many more contributions for the members' benefits, because Local 9 has always supported any brewery workers' strike throughout the entire United States by assessment to their Local members of \$1.00 per month.

Factors that could be developed to encourage Teamsters affiliation:

- 1) There are approximately 1,000 former Teamsters working in the breweries and for the breweries out of approximately 7,000. This figure does not

include the malt houses and granaries in the area.

2) The beer depots, which hire approximately 650 drivers, laborers and warehousemen in the Milwaukee area are affiliated with the Teamsters.

3) During the strike, Teamsters Local 200 of Milwaukee expects to absorb 300 or 400 brewery workers as truck drivers for the area, inasmuch as there is a shortage of truck drivers at present. It might be well to inform the Truck Drivers Local Unions who put brewery workers to work during the strike to record their names and addresses for whatever future use they may be.

4) There is a rumble among the younger men that they are being neglected in the negotiations because during the past three or four years there has been an Article (which the Brewery Workers Union agreed to) in which management can hire any man under 21 years of age to work in the breweries on any type of work that they have for him and pay him at a rate that is classified as a "boy" rate. This rate allows the breweries to pay \$1.50 per hour, and that rate remains in effect for three years (not until he reaches 21, but for three years from the date of his employment.)

The breweries have been, from time to time, down-grading the old-timers with 20 and 30 years of service who are slowing up on their jobs and have been replacing them with the lower, "boy" rate help. However, in down-grading the old-timers, they are putting them in a classification known as a "utility" rate, which is paid at the rate of \$1.80 per hour; 20¢ less, in most cases, than their regular classification. The ratio is one "boy" to every twenty men throughout each and every brewery.

This information could be constructive in two ways: Should the negotiations fail to remove the "boy" classification, and also fail to provide a health, welfare and pension fund for the old-timers who are ready for retirement, we would have two good-sized dissatisfied groups.

5) The Miller High Life Brewery, due to its great expansion program, has relatively young men in their employ; set so much to gain the "boy" rate because they are considered a very fair brewery, but because of their expansion program, Schlitz, Pabst and Blatz are considered old-timers' breweries - second and third generations have worked for these breweries over the period of years - and from what information I could glean from the workers on the picket lines as I walked with them at different times during the day and night, Schlitz is the key to any infiltration that is possible because, in the opinion of the men, the way Schlitz goes so goes Local 9.

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